

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for allowing Claims 5, 32, 40 and 41.

Claims 1-44 are canceled without prejudiced.

Claims 45-74 are added.

Claim 45 is based on the canceled Claim 5.

Claims 46-52, which are dependent on Claim 45, are based on the canceled Claims 2-4, 6-7 and 33-34.

Claim 53 is based on the canceled Claim 32.

Claims 54-64, which are dependent on Claim 53, are based on the canceled Claims 21-31.

Claim 65 is based on the canceled Claim 40.

Claims 66-69, which are dependent on Claim 65, are based on the canceled Claims 36-39.

Claim 70 is based on the canceled Claim 41.

Claims 71-74, which are dependent on Claim 70, are based on the canceled Claims 36-39.

No new matter is added by the newly added Claims.

The rejections of Claims 1-4, 6, 7, 20-25, 27-31 and 33 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Walter (DE 4,326,179 A1) and Claims 6, 35-37 and 39 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Walter are respectfully traversed.

The cancellation of Claims 1-44 obviates the rejections. Withdrawal of the rejections is requested.

Furthermore, the cancellation of Claims 42-44 obviates the double patenting rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Application No. 09/529,672
Reply to Office Action of April 1, 2004

Claims 45, 53, 65 and 70 are directed to allowable subject matter. Claims 45-52, 54-64, 66-69 and 71-74, which are dependent on Claims 45, 53, 65 and 70, respectively, are also directed to allowable subject matter.

Applicants submit the application is now in condition for allowance. Early notification of such allowance is earnestly solicited.

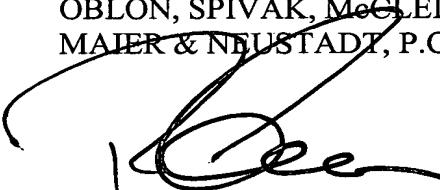
Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Jean-Paul Lavallee
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 31,451

Richard L. Treanor
Registration No. 36,379